

CLAIMS

1. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide selected from any of:
- (a) SEQ ID No: 2;
 - (b) an immunogenic fragment comprising at least 12 consecutive amino acids from a polypeptide of (a); and
 - (c) a polypeptide of (a) or (b) which has been modified to improve its immunogenicity, wherein said modified polypeptide is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to the corresponding polypeptide of (a) or (b).
2. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from any of:
- (a) SEQ ID Nos: 1;
 - (b) a sequence which encodes a polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID No: 1;
 - (c) a sequence comprising at least 38 consecutive nucleotides from any one of the nucleic acid sequences of (a) and (b); and
 - (d) a sequence which encodes a polypeptide which is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to the polypeptides encoded by SEQ ID No: 1.
3. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence which is anti-sense to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
4. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a fusion protein, said fusion protein comprising a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 and an additional polypeptide.

13. A nucleic acid probe of 5 to 100 nucleotides which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID No: 1, or to a homolog or complementary or anti-sense sequence of said nucleic acid molecule.

14. A primer of 10 to 40 nucleotides which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid molecules of SEQ ID No: 1, or to a homolog or complementary or anti-sense sequence of said nucleic acid molecule.

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15. A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from any of:

- 10
- (a) SEQ ID No: 2;
 - (b) an immunogenic fragment comprising at least 12 consecutive amino acids from a polypeptide of (a); and
 - (c) a polypeptide of (a) or (b) which has been modified to improve its immunogenicity, wherein said modified polypeptide is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to the corresponding polypeptide of (a) or (b).
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16. A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of claim 15 and an additional polypeptide.

20 17. The fusion polypeptide of claim 16 wherein the additional polypeptide is a heterologous signal peptide.

18. The fusion protein of claim 16 wherein the additional polypeptide has adjuvant activity.

25 19. A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 15, comprising the step of culturing a unicellular host according to claim 12.

30 20. An antibody against the polypeptide of claim 15.

21. A vaccine comprising at least one first polypeptide according to claim 15 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

optionally comprising a second polypeptide which enhances the immune response to the first polypeptide.

22. The vaccine of claim 21 wherein the second polypeptide comprises an additional Chlamydia polypeptide.

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide according to claim 15 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a vaccine according to claim 21 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody according to claim 20 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. A method for preventing or treating Chlamydia infection using the nucleic acid of claim 1.

27. A method for preventing or treating Chlamydia infection using the vaccine of claim 8.

28. A method for preventing or treating Chlamydia infection using the pharmaceutical composition of claim 10.

29. A method for preventing or treating Chlamydia infection using the polypeptide of claim 15.

30. A method for preventing or treating Chlamydia infection using the antibody of claim 20.

31. A method of detecting Chlamydia infection comprising the step of assaying a body fluid of a mammal to be tested with the nucleic acid of claim 1.

32. A method of detecting Chlamydia infection comprising the step of assaying a body fluid of a mammal to be tested with the polypeptide of claim 15.

5 33. A method of detecting Chlamydia infection comprising the step of assaying a body fluid of a mammal to be tested with the antibody of claim 20.

34. A method for identifying the polypeptide of claim 15
10 which induces an immune response effective to prevent or lessen the severity of Chlamydia infection in a mammal previously immunized with polypeptide, comprising the steps of:
(a) immunizing a mouse with the polypeptide; and
(b) inoculating the immunized mouse with Chlamydia;
15 wherein the polypeptide which prevents or lessens the severity of Chlamydia infection in the immunized mouse compared to a non-immunized control mouse is identified.

35. Expression plasmid pCACRMP60.

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36. A nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO. 3 or 4.

37. A 60kDa cysteine rich membrane protein from Chlamydia.

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